

NELL-1 ENHANCED BONE MINERALIZATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention pertains to the discovery that the human *NELL-1* gene induces or upregulates bone mineralization. The *NELL-1* gene or gene product thus provides a
5 convenient target for screening for modulators of bone mineralization. In addition, *NELL-1* can be used to facilitate repair of bone fractures and/or to generally increase bone density.

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